

Remarks

Claims 1-21 were pending; claims 2, 3, 20, and 21 are canceled. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of allowed claim 3. Therefore claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 4-10 are dependent on allowable claim 1. Therefore claims 4-10 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 11-19 are allowed. Claim 8 is amended to correct a typographical error, "fist" is changed to "first."

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshimura et al. (US 5,994,934). Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of allowed claim 3 and claims 2 and 20 are cancelled herein, rendering moot the rejection made under Section 102.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura in view of Kurd (US 6,043,717). Claim 21 is cancelled herein rendering moot the rejection made under Section 103.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 11-19 are allowed by the Examiner. The Examiner objected to claims 3-10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of allowed dependent claim 3. Therefore it is believed that amended claim 1 is in a position to be allowed and allowance is earnestly sought.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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/John Pessetto/

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